

Remarks

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the helpful suggestions. Claims 1-18 are pending. Claim 14 has been amended. The abstract has been corrected.

The Examiner has rejected claim 11 as being indefinite because of the use of "said first and second polypeptide" in line 1 and its omission in claim 12. As shown above in the claims section, claim 11 does not appear to contain this language. In fact, this language is relevant to claims 1-10. Indeed, claim 11 is directed to producing a cyclic polypeptide by splicing a single polypeptide and therefore does not require a first and second polypeptide.

However, claim 14, which depends on claims 11 and 12, recites "said first and second polypeptide". Claim 14 has therefore been amended.

The amendment to the specification has been made according to the suggestion of the Examiner thereby eliminating the Evans reference as anticipatory because it was published after the filing date of the provisional application upon which the present application relies.

The Examiner has rejected claims 12, 14 and 18 as being anticipated by Scott et al. This reference was published in November 1999 only 3 months before the filing date of the provisional patent application, upon which the present application depends (February 2000). This provisional application discloses very similar subject

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matter to the later published Evans reference and provides support for the present claims.

Consequently, for reasons that include the above, the Scott reference is not a prior art reference under 35 USC 102(b).

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Conclusion

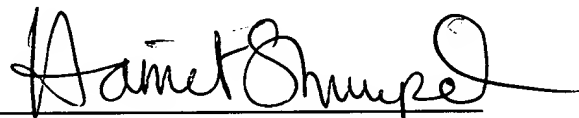
For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that this case is in condition for immediate allowance. Early and favorable consideration leading to prompt issuance of this Application is earnestly solicited.

We petition for a three-month extension of time to file a response. A check in the amount of \$ 490 is enclosed. Please charge any deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 14-0740.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the remarks made herein, the undersigned attorney would appreciate the opportunity to do so.

Respectfully submitted,

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